THE REDBIRD WORD

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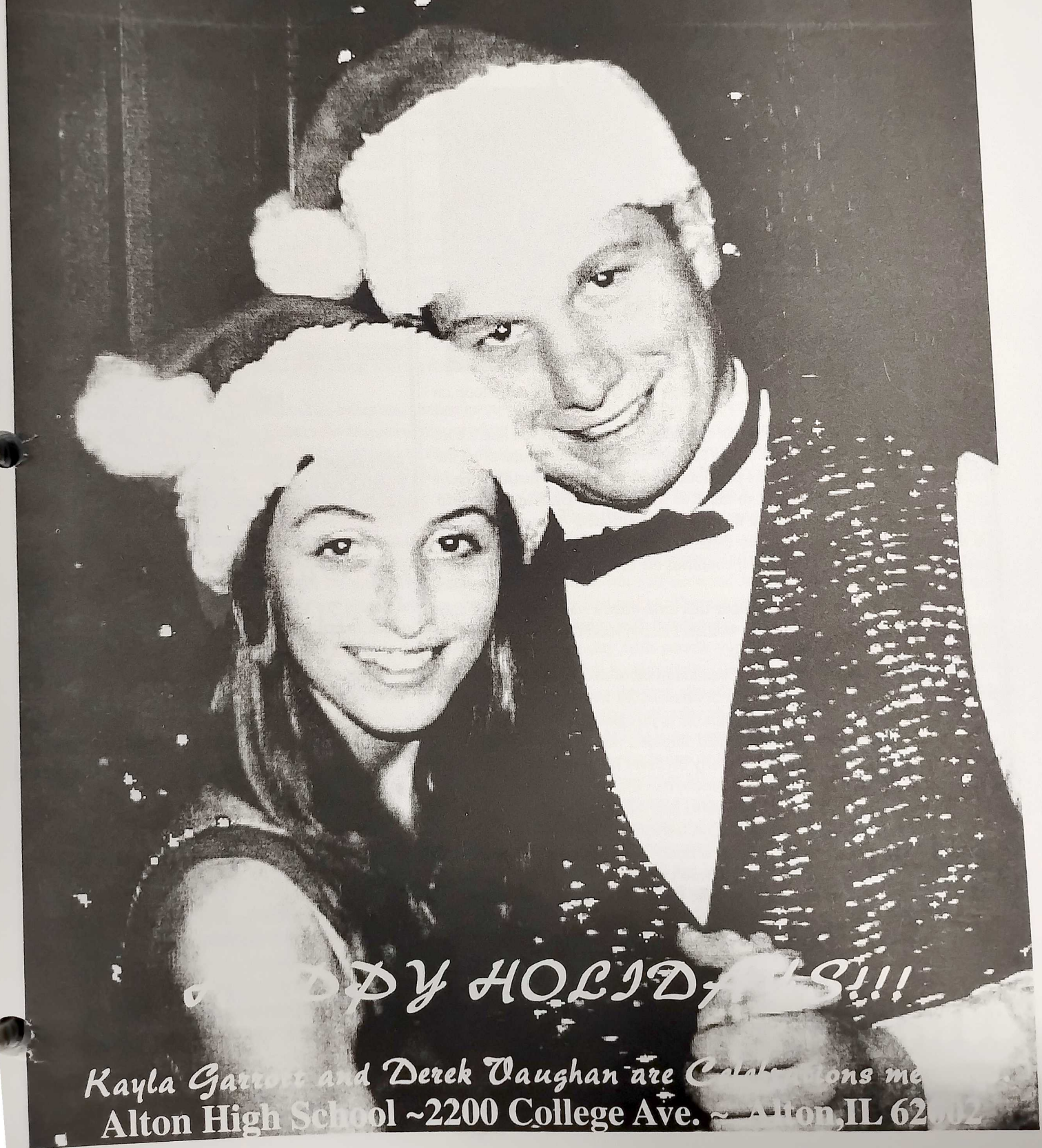

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Kayla Garner and Derek Vaughan are Christmas mo

Alton High School ~2200 College Ave. ~ Alton,IL 62002

Pushy Broads and Power Trips

RedBirdWord December 2001

Rock Throwing and Whiny Teens

by Alison Hanold
Editor-in-Chief

I was sitting in my luxury vehicle the other day, (OK, its a beat up minivan) just pondering the meaning of life and how to bring about world peace, when one of my good anonymous male friends hopped in my passenger seat. We exchanged our usual morning greetings, and then he proceeded to tell me his problems. ALL of his problems. His boss hates him. His teachers hate him. Every girl in the world hates him. All of his friends hate him. He sucks at everything and is by far the most uncool person who ever lived.

"I hate my life," he said, with that puppy dog "Pet me! Pet me!" look on his face.

It was at this moment that I had an epiphany. "Holy crap have I heard a lot of people complain about stuff that isn't even true!" I began to think of all the things in the world that made his problems seem so small. Muslim women get stoned to death if they show so much as their elbow. Girls in some third world countries are forced to have their genitals mutilated. This causes sex to be so painful that there is no way these women would ever cheat on their husbands. Christians in communist countries are often beaten and murdered, just for following their beliefs.

Thinking of all of these things made that time when I was six years old and threw a tantrum because my mother wouldn't let me watch the newest episode of *Family Matters* seem pretty trivial.

Now, I don't mean to pick on my one anonymous male friend, but he is a primary example of the typical person in this country who doesn't appreciate all that he has. Nobody *really* hates him, he is just guilty of the same things most people are. He lets the smallest and stupidest things ruin his life. The average complaint of a teenage girl usually involves her butt looking big in a certain pair of pants, or some other girl wrote that she was a "hoochie" on the bathroom stall, or the boy she likes *dared* to flirt with another girl.

Whenever I feel bad my mother always uses the same out of date phrase "Count your blessings!" Well, I think it actually is pretty good advice to put your life into perspective. And if that doesn't work, have someone chuck a couple rocks at you. After five or six of the pointy ones, your big-butt jeans won't seem like such a problem.

Happy Holidays!

from the RedBird Word Staff

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Our Mission 2001-2002

"News with a purpose... inform, enlighten, and entertain."

Letters to the Editor

The RedBird Word staff would love to hear your feedback. Please send any comments, questions, complaints, or ideas to Mrs. Brave's room, 401.

Alton Senior High School
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL 62002

Cover designed by Jennifer Frederick

Straight From the Bird's Mouth
RedBird Word
December 2001

Bush Gets an A+

by Dan Lester
Copy Editor

As the first year of George W. Bush's administration comes to a close, we have to take time to reflect on the events of the year, and grade our leader. This has been a long standing tradition of the press, so I figured why not jump on the band wagon with all the other crazy, government knocking journalist's.

President Bush's administration started with a bang as Al Gore took him to the supreme court over some chads in the state of Florida's election results. This made a mockery of the entire election process and really caused some drama along the party lines, which has not been forgotten. The only funny part now is that the little, bearded man from Tennessee who wanted the recount has found out that the cold, hard truth is that no matter what way you counted them, Bush still won. Grade for Bush and his press corp, along with the Republican party, for handling this matter : A-

Next, we have the stolen spy plane. Yes, ladies and gentlemen our friendly, communist friends from China who decided to play chicken with a Navy EP-3E reconnaissance plane, managed to steal it after losing one of their own pilots. Well, let me think about the use of the word steal. The plane was hit and damaged, obviously needing to make an emergency landing, and the Chinese troops decided to hop aboard and look around for awhile.

It's a little perplexing how a country who accounts for a vast amount of technical exports needs to look at what we have. Well, that is when good ole G.W. stepped in and asked for our plane back like any self-respecting President would do. This kind of reminded me of the cartoons where the two characters are fighting over the same toy and it rips in half, upsetting them both. George would have none of this type of playfulness with the Chinese. We all knew they were just testing us and ultimately trying to get America to do something stupid like launch a couple of our freshly, baked cruise missiles. No such luck for China. Checkmate, America, with plane and crew back, and no damage to the Chinese landscape, or that big wall thing. Grade for the elephants: A

For our last blast we have the Taliban and Osama the Ugly. Bush has brought a nation together after the gutless attacks that have tried to derail the American pride. HA HA, Osama the Ugly, you failed. Miserably might I add. Now instead of Americans running around like a chicken without a head, we are bombing Afghanistan back to the stone age, if that is possible. The funniest thing, in my opinion, is that the caves the wimps retreated to are in the mountains of Afghanistan. I mean, come on, stay and fight like men, and remember that you are the morons who started the male dominated society.

The new war has really turned around our country and the Bush Administration. It has created a new cabinet position, Office of Homeland Security, and has brought about an acute awareness of the lack of tolerance for terrorism. Bush's war grade: A. The overall grade of our leader would have to be, lemme think, oh yeah: A+.

Tainted Holiday

by Adam Betz
News Editor

If you ask me, the holidays are way too overrated. What is so special about this two month period, lasting from October 31 to January 1, that makes everyone go out and spend more of their hard earned money than the other ten months out of the year? No, it is not our caring nature, giving hearts or good will toward man, it is the evil known as COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING!

Take Halloween for example. This is a holiday where the youth of America dress up like skeletons, ghouls and goblins to try to scare people, get candy that will rot their teeth and celebrate the "evils" of the world. If kids really want to scare people then why not dress up like lawyers, accountants, or Cher, something that really **does** strike fear into the hearts of mortal men? Not to mention if you have outgrown the "trick-or-treat" phase then the only thing you get out of this holiday is having to spend your hard earned money on candy to keep the kids at bay.

Then there is Thanksgiving. The only purpose of this holiday is celebrating the Pilgrims coming to this country and stripping the land away from the Native Americans. What better way to celebrate our self-centered American ways than by eating a big butter ball turkey. There is one thing that you can definitely look forward to with this holiday, and that is being forced to spend most of the day with people you do not even like, we can call them "family" for simplicity purposes. The only actual good thing about the day is the over abundance of food that you will eat, until you come to the realization that all the food you ate caused you to gain 15 pounds that went straight to your butt.

Christmas is one of the worst holidays. We celebrate some fat man breaking into all of our homes late at night and leaving us some mysterious packages of who knows what under some tree. It sounds to me like we should be scared out of our minds instead. Americans have completely lost the meaning of this holiday. It is no longer about the birth of the Christ Child but about money, gifts, and crowded convenience stores.

New Years ranks up there as one of the most embarrassing and useless holidays of all. There is not really much to this holiday other than getting drunk, making a complete fool of yourself and making resolutions that you will drop within a month. Every year I watch that accursed ball drop second by second, inch by inch and think, "Oh poo, here comes another year of endless torture."

At least the other ten months of the year are not tainted by corrupt holidays. Oh, wait I forgot about Valentines day. Blah. At least St. Patrick's Day follows shortly there after. I mean come on, everyone loves a leprechaun! :-)

NEWS & STUFF
RedBird Word
December 2001

AOL Gets A New Guy

by Nik Kern
Managing Editor

AOL Time Warner's newly appointed CEO is not your average businessman. Richard Parsons, 53, is often described as easy to get along with and liked by all. Parsons has worked his way to the top through major positions in government, banking and law.

Parsons has lawyer training, but began his career as assistant counsel to New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller in 1971. When Rockefeller became Vice President under the Ford Administration, Parsons became a senior White House Aid.

Parsons has also served in private business as well, becoming a managing partner of the New York law firm Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler, and the Chairman and CEO at Dime Bancorp.

However, Parsons is not the new kid on the block at AOL Time Warner, he joined the board in 1991, and became president in 1995. Now Robert Parsons is the co-chief operating officer. He is responsible for Warner Bros., New Line Cinema, Warner Music Group and Time Warner Trade Publishing, as well as the legal department and human resources.

In his free time Parsons also is co-chair of President Bush's bipartisan Social Security Commission, and he chairs the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corp. Parsons also holds seat on many boards such as Citigroup.

Now Parsons is considered to be one of America's top African American businessmen. However, Parsons told CNN that he did not consider his race a handicap ora focus for him.

Student Teachers at AHS

by Christin Campbell
Photographer

There has been a large number of student teachers at Alton High School. This is a result from all of the teachers that are retiring at the end of the 2001-2002 school year; a total number of 56 certified personnel. Three of this total are administrators, one is an audio/visual coordinator, and one is a nurse.

One out of the three student teachers interviewed, one is going to continue teaching at Alton High. Mr. Kimble, Mrs. Purcell's student teacher, will be an English teacher at Alton High School.

Mr. Kimble wants to be a positive rolemodel to kids. He is happily married and has three kids. His experience as Mrs. Purcell's student teacher has been wonderful.

Ms. Mossman, Mrs. Brave's student teacher loved her experience at Alton High School. She would love to be apart of the Alton High staff. Mrs. Mossman also wants to pursue her career in English teacher.

Mr. Renth, Mrs. Capps student teacher, was a little apprehensive coming to Alton High because of the town size being bigger than he was used to. He enjoys being here, but wants to work closer to home.

Gay-Straight Alliance Forms On Campus

by Brian Ray

Nancy Bivens, a school social worker, has taken on the task of assisting students create a gay-straight alliance.

Last year the group met every week in an office uptown. The inconvenient location forced some of the members to come less and less until only two members were left.

When the 2001-2002 school year began the students were ready to try again for an on campus group and Mrs. Bivens agreed to sponsor the group.

The group is planning on holding weekly meetings starting second semester. Mrs. Bivens said, "This is an area that has been needing to be addressed for several years. We are excited about bringing it to our school."

For additional information contact Mrs. Bivens or another social worker at Alton High School.

In Memory Of Abby Purcell

by Christin Campbell
Photographer

Abby Purcell had a bench dedicated to her Tuesday, December 4. The bench is located in front of Alton High School by the flagpole.

The bench was given by Mr. and Mrs. Gates, Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin, Mr. and Mrs. Monahan, Mr. and Mrs. Schleper, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Mendenhall, Mr. and Mrs. Hendrickson, Mr. and Mrs. Carrow, and Mr. and Mrs. Parker. It came from Alton Monuments on Delmar. Mr. Monahan designed the angel that is on the bench. Also on the bench is a crown. The crown signifies a Queen's crown. Abby always wanted to be treated like a queen, for instance, always wanting her feet rubbed. Abby collected figurines from Mary Englebright. The theme of Mary Englebright is "It's good to be Queen."

Mr. Robbins gave the dedication speech and read a poem. Mrs. Purcell, Abby's mother, also spoke and passed out charms in the shape of a crown.

Placed in front of the bench was a single long stem rose. The Lord's prayer was then recited.

Mrs. Purcell closed the dedication by thanking everyone for coming.

"I felt like the dedication went really well. The poem that Mr. Robbins wrote was extremely nice," said senior Pat Gates.

Everyone then gathered for dinner following the dedication.

"It makes me feel very good that so many people have been here for me. I just want them to know how much I love them," said Mrs. Purcell.

Got Friends? We Do!

By Kenny Ross

In the mountainous land of northern Afghanistan a group of young, lightly clad men huddle together over a fire. In the distance the sound of explosions and artillery echo across the mountains and ring in the ears of these poorly fed and lightly dressed fighters. Despite the lack of supplies, these fighters have a fiery determination in their eyes to defeat the Taliban. This is daily life for the Northern Alliance, who are a group of freedom fighters and allies of the United States in the War on Terrorism.

At this time the Alliance controls most of Afghanistan with home base still in the Northeast of Afghanistan. The Alliance is made up of three main ethnic and political groups all united in an equal hatred of the Taliban regime ; the ethnic Tajik group, the Uzbek group, and the Hazara Ethnic Group. None of these people are a majority of the population in Afghanistan, and that is why they are exiled into these rebel groups.

Until recently the Northern Alliance has been able to do no more than hold their own against the Taliban, who is Pashtun, due to a lack of training and modern equipment. Most of the Alliance's equipment is of the old soviet design. The reason for this lies in their inability to provide sufficient funds to purchase modern weapons. Until recently, their only supports have been Russia and Tajikstan, who have never approved of the Taliban rule.

As we all know war involves death and the Northern Alliance found that out the hard way. General Masood, the Alliance's leader and founder, was assassinated recently by the Taliban. The former president of Afghanistan, Burhanuddin Rabbani, has stepped up to take the lead of the Alliance. He was ousted when the Taliban took over rule, but remained the UN recognized leader of the country and retained many of his embassies throughout the world.

During the late 1980's the Alliance briefly held power and proved to be a more liberal government than the ultra-radical, fundamentalist Taliban regime. The women were allowed to hold jobs and obtain a higher education. This is a great contrast to the Taliban who regarded women as nothing more than possessions.

Now the Afghan people's hope is for a return to this type of government will come with American support of the Northern Alliance. International talks are under way in Germany to set up an interim government for Afghanistan.

"We will come out of there with a government, we will not let this have a chance to fail" said Northern Alliance Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

Hey, it could happen!

By Daniel Lester
Copy Editor

The inevitable has happened to America and a team of research scientist's from Advanced Cell Technology in Worcester, Mass. A human embryo was cloned and is in the process of developing.

Advanced Cell Technology has taken many criticisms for this act, but has defended the project faithfully. Michael West, the companies CEO, had this to say about the embryo "I am just trying to help people who are sick, and really that's our focus."

West also said that " therapeutic cloning could lead to advances in fighting a variety of ailments, including Parkinson's disease and diabetes."

On the flip side of this, the new breakthrough has drawn vast amounts of criticism from lawmakers. The ethics of this are the main concern for these elected officials.

" I think that people are concerned about the ethical problems here, I believe it will be a big debate, but at the end of the day I don't believe there will be any human cloning going on." said Senator Richard Shelby, a republican from Alabama.

The White House helped reaffirm this by stating "President Bush is 100% opposed to the idea of human cloning and will stand by that through congressional debate."

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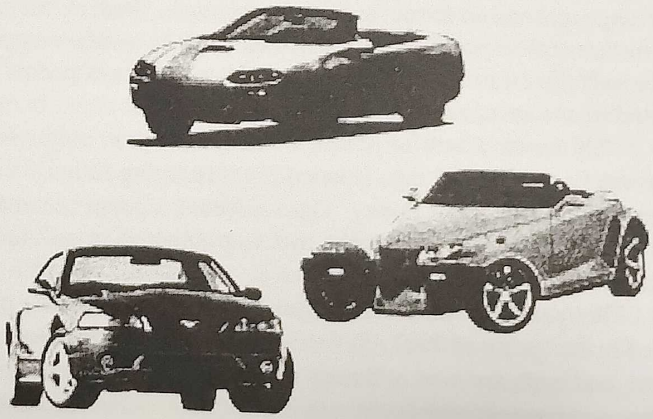

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Christmas Is About Love, Not About Money

By Laura Griffith
Features Editor

Come Christmas time, everyone feels the need to buy presents for all their friends and family. The problem is, without a good job or rich parents who like to hand their kids money, most high school students are a bit low on cash.

This season, students will strive to buy the perfect presents to make their loved ones happy. Sometimes the best presents can be low budget, or even homemade, as long as they come straight from the heart.

Cookies are always an easy-made holiday favorite. Also, things like caramels, caramel corn, brownies, rice crispy treats, fudge and much more can make great gifts. Food is always popular.

Other homemade gifts can include bath salts, potpourri, beaded necklaces, other handmade jewelry, tree ornaments, candle holders, and more. Go to *www.kattitudes.com* for more ideas, recipes and instructions on how to make some of these suggested gifts.

Remember, homemade gifts are not always "cheap," as long as they are meaningful.

AHS Student Council Spreads the Spirit

by Courtney Schien

The Alton High School Student Council is spreading the Christmas spirit this holiday season. They are chairing numerous community service projects to try to bring joy into the households of those who are not so fortunate.

The Council is adopting two families from the Alton area for Christmas. The Powder Puff game, sponsored by Student Council, raised 2,437 dollars for charity this year. This is nearly four times the amount raised last year. The money from the game is used to purchase food and clothing for the adopted families. Coats, gloves, socks, and food are also bought for the children at the Oasis Center and the Boys and Girls Club.

"We chose these organizations because they were in our area," said Student Council Adviser Gayle Burjes. "The 9/11 Fund is fantastic, but we just wanted to help out closer to home."

To further help the community, the Council will ring bells at K-Mart for the Salvation Army and fill bags of food for the animals at the Celebration of Christmas in Rock Springs Park.

Youth Expression

by Alex McMullen

Written with self-expression and experience, poetry transcends all languages and art forms for its personal touch. Students looking to further explore poetry may present their work on *www.poetry.com* The web site offers cash or gift prizes to the authors of poems selected by the members of a selection committee.

"Of the thousands of poems we read each year, only a fraction can be published," says Howard Ely, Managing Editor for the International Library of Poetry. Once selected, a poem becomes a semifinalist for the grand prize and is published in an annual hardbound novel.

This year's novel, *Under a Quicksilver Moon,* is to be published in the spring of 2002. Seven novels have already been published, and each are now a literary source for public libraries, recording companies, and worldwide news media. After the competition, authors are eligible to attend the International Society of Poets Convention and Symposium held March 1st through March 3rd at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Editor's Note:

The cash prize is 1,000 dollars every month. Each author is allowed one entry per month. Every other poem that author wishes to post on the site will be posted, but will not be entered to win the cash prize, or to be published in the annual novel.

Sex and Consequences

by Elaine Myers

Sex. This word is becoming more and more common among teenagers. Many teens are having sex without fully realizing the consequences that come with it..

Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are obviously one of the consequences to sex. When our grandparents were growing up they could count the number of existing STDs on one hand. Then, the doctor would prescribe some penicillin and life would go on. Things have changed. There are now over 30 known STDs, 30% of which are incurable. Some STDs are bacterial and some are viral. Bacterial STDs can be cured. For this type of STD, a doctor gives the patient an antibiotic, and with time, it goes away. Viral diseases last a lifetime. A viral disease will be passed on to everyone who has sexual contact with an infected person.

The two most common STDs are HPV (genital warts) and herpes. Genital warts are obviously warts found on the genitals. If a man has this it is obvious. Usually with women, the warts appear on the cervix. How many women have looked at their cervix lately? Usually by the time women find out they have them, cancer cells have formed around the cervix and they are diagnosed with cervical cancer as well.

The next most common disease is herpes. Herpes are open wounds around the genitals. They appear every so often and medication is taken for them daily to control outbreaks. Medications can have side effects such as dry mouth, diarrhea and nausea. Who wants that for the rest of their lives?

To learn more, go to *www.afraidtoask.com.*

When You Wish Upon A Star

by Andrea Zimmermann

"A dream come true," is the motto of Disney World. This is true for children of all ages, including two Alton High students. Lori Perkins and Andrea Zimmermann traveled to Orlando, Florida, as All-stars of the Showstoppers Camps of America (SCA).

Over the summer, the Alton High Dance Team attended an SCA camp at McKendree College in Lebanon, Illinois. At the camp, nine of the girls were selected to audition to become an All-Star. Seven were chosen to become All-Stars along with 60 other dancers nationwide.

The September 11 tragedy made many of these 60 girls decide not to travel. The group that attended in Florida was 27 dancers and four flag girls. These girls came together from many different states to perform the pre-parade in Disney's Main Street Parade.

A three-hour rehearsal followed by a barbecue occupied their time the first night at the Wyndham Resort Hotel. The next morning the All-Stars practiced yet again. This time they danced along the outside perimeter of the resort. The routine was six minutes long. The dancers spent the rest of the day at either Universal Studios or Islands of Adventure.

On Tuesday the girls traveled to MGM Studios to take part in a mock audition to become Disney dancers. Each girl was given a number and placed in lines numerically. The three hour long audition included learning a portion of the "Zip-a-dee-doo-dah!" dance which is performed in front of the castle and a section of the Lion King Show.

Wednesday was the big day for the All-Stars. At 2:40 p.m., the group danced their way down Main Street in the Magic Kingdom to the crowd pleasing song, "76 Trombones," from the musical *The Music Man*. The parade lasted 30 minutes.

"I was so hot, but it was one of the best experiences of my life!" exclaimed All-Star Katie Booth of Galva, Illinois.

The final day in Florida was spent at either Epcot or Animal Kingdom. The day was concluded with a Thanksgiving dinner at the Resort where the Showstopper of the Year was awarded. Rachel Cooper of Lindbergh, Missouri, received the prestigious award which included scholarship money.

Upon reflection, Lori Perkins of Alton High said, "I loved meeting the different girls. It was a great learning experience, and I hope I have the same opportunity next year."

Computer Bandit Strikes Library

by Diane Holden
Senior Editor

nfuenyne;. "What's up with this computer?" said many students at Alton High. The school's computer lab located in the library has been being vandalized by students. Starting at the end of November you now have to sign up to use a computer.

The vandalism began with students taking keys off the keyboard of the computer and switching them around. Then many mouse balls were missing and the keyboards were unplugged. Not only in the computer lab has it happened, but also happened in a teacher's classroom.

"One persons idea of fun has spoiled everyone's free access," said Librarian Ms. Brown.

Each computer has a number on the top of it. When you enter the computer lab, you must sign your name, the computer in which you plan to use, and the time you enter to use the computer and the time you left.

Senior Jenny Bratton said, "It's a good idea so if something happens you're responsible for it."

"Now another ridiculous rule has been forced upon the students of Alton High because of immature students playing around and acting silly," said senior Megan Erwin.

Popular Music Takes a Stand

by Josh Lambie
Business Editor

Exactly 100 surveys were sent out to students to find out what type of music they love to listen to. Music plays an important roll in the lives of teenagers and is a very influential force. Some students find inspiration through music and others listen to music to get away from the world.

Senior Kayla Garrott says "Music is something I do for fun. It's a big part of my life. It lets me express myself."

The results from the survey were used to find out what type of music teenagers around Alton High find most popular. The majority of teenagers found rap and rock to be most popular. Country and R&B came next in line. Consequently eighties and pop crashed and burned, but not to fret, there are still some teenagers out there rocking to the eighties and pop.

This survey was done to show what type of music is popular and what type of music is not popular, but also to show the individuality of the students. It shows the different kinds of music teenagers enjoy listening to, but at the same time, teenagers also enjoy listening to the music together.

"Music is the essence of my life. It allows me to express myself, and it can also provide people with entertainment," said senior Heather Baumburger.

We All Need A Break

by Amanda Thomas

Breaks are a growing cause of concern among working teens today. Are they getting too few or too many? Although there is no federal law that requires break or meal periods, seven states provide for rest breaks and seventeen provide for meal breaks.

Of the states that do require rest breaks, such as Colorado, Kentucky, Nevada and Oregon, the average time given to employees is about ten minutes for every four hours worked. Meal breaks, which are mandatory in Illinois, vary from state to state.

In states like California, Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin and Tennessee, employees receive a thirty minute meal period for shifts at least six hours long. Illinois, on the other hand, gives a twenty minute meal break for every seven and a half hours worked. According to the Illinois Six Day Week law, this break must be given no later than five hours after the start of the shift.

Some local businesses, such as the Pasta House, give their employees a thirty minute break after five hours of work. Megan Williams, AHS junior and Sears employee, reported that she received a fifteen minute break for every four hours and a half hour break for every six and a half hours.

Other local businesses have no set rule regarding breaks. At Subway, employees like Jeff Hartnett, AHS , can take unlimited breaks as long as the customers have been waited on and the required tasks have been completed.

Laura Hickerson, AHS junior, who worked 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.at the unemployment office, said, "I thought I got sufficient breaks. I had time to do what needed to be done." She received an hour for lunch as well as two twenty minute breaks.

Caroling for Coins

by Julie Strassman
Senior Editor

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and one of the most common sights of the season is the Salvation Army bell ringers. Braving the cold weather, these volunteers help collect millions of dollars each year for the Salvation Army charities.

French students practice caroling photo by Julie Strassman

Alton High has its share of students who willingly help the seasonal charity. Many students become bell ringers, either individually or with their families. Several student organizations at AHS volunteer as well. The French, German and Spanish Clubs each ring bells at local businesses in December.

This year, the French and German Clubs collected for the Salvation Army on December 14 at K-Mart, while the Spanish Club volunteered on December 13 in front of Target. All the clubs sang the traditional Christmas carols of their respective countries in the country's language.

Jenny Moats, senior member of the French Club, said, "I volunteer because it gives me a sense of pride to see all the people come and donate to our cause."

College Application? Stop Procrastination

by Sandy Walter

Deadlines are nearing. Many seniors are beginning to feel the pressure. It is time to apply for college. But how do you get an application? What if you fill it out wrong? When exactly should you begin to apply to college? What are the requirements? What requirements should you have for the colleges you're looking into?

These are just a few of the questions seniors are asking themselves. This can be an extremely stressful time for AHS seniors. According to Trisha Cruz, senior, "There are so many choices and opportunities. It's hard to narrow things down."

Where should students turn for help? University web sites often contain lots of important information about the majors the college offers, the requirements needed to be accepted, deadlines and more. Also many college fairs are coming up. Here, students can talk to representatives from the colleges of their choice

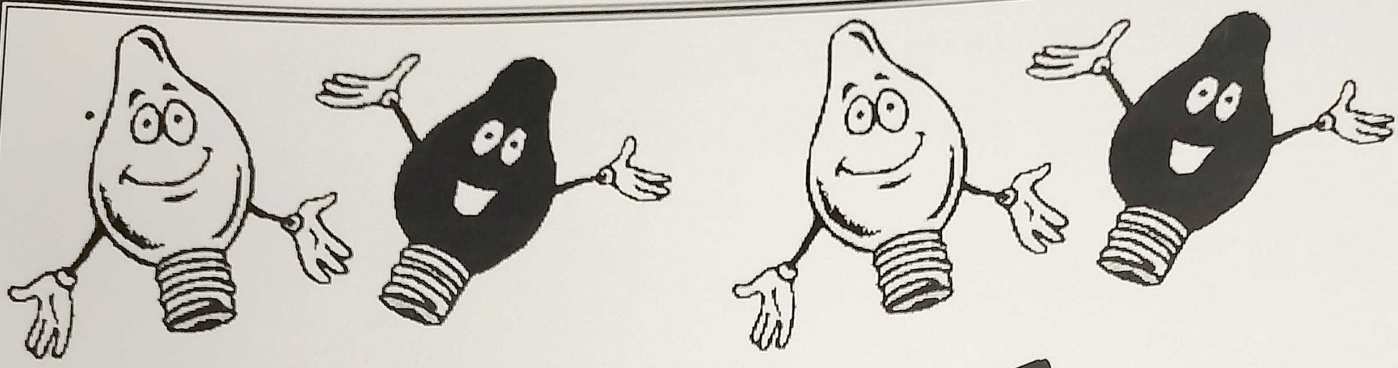
Mr. Underwood advises a student photo by Jennefer Frederick

Another excellent source of help is parents. They may be able to help narrow the choices down a little and assist in finding more information.

School counselors can also help a lot. Brian Bish, senior, advises, "Lie to your study hall teacher and say you're going to the library. This will give you one half hour to hunt down your counselor and talk to her." Most study hall teachers, though, probably wouldn't have a problem allowing students to talk with their counselors during study hall.

The counselors can tell students when colleges are visiting Alton High or advise on where to go to find what they're looking for.

For those who are wondering when they should begin applying to college, Mrs. McFarland suggests that some people start at the end of their junior year, most should begin at the beginning of their senior year.



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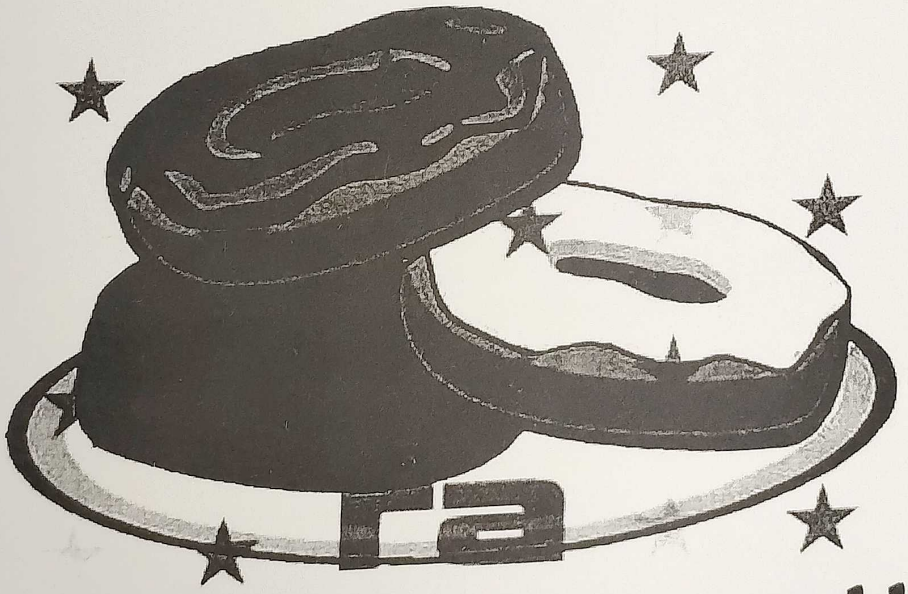

!!!Merry Christmas!!!

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Royal Tenenbaums bring Hilarity to Big Screen

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor.

This past weekend *The Royal Tenenbaums*, the third film from the writer/director combination of Wes Anderson and Owen Wilson, was released nationwide to much deserved critical acclaim.

Directed by Anderson the *Tenenbaums*, the vein of the Texas duo's previous work, is refreshingly original with exquisite dialogue and unlike their previous movies features an all-star cast.

Five time Academy Award nominee Gene Hackman plays a dying father trying to reunite his family for one last month of togetherness. His children are played by Hollywood princess Gwyneth Paltrow, *Zoolander* Star Ben Stiller and Paltrow's real-life boyfriend and Owen's brother Luke Wilson. Between them the Tenenbaum children broker million dollar real estate deals, write award winning plays and win national tennis tournaments all by the age of 15.

Photo Courtesy of royaltenenbaums.com

Veteran actors Danny Glover, Anjelica Huston and Bill Murray round out the formidable cast. In an extravagant leap of fiction Murray's character, an aging, dyslexic, psychoanalyst is married to Paltrow. Owen Wilson also appears in the movie as an esteemed writer and mescaline addict that grew up with the Tenenbaums.

Nine years ago Anderson, along with Owen Wilson whom he met while attending the University of Texas, wrote a 13 minute short film entitled *Bottle Rocket*. The movie gained enough praise at independent film festivals that Columbia Pictures produced a full-length version in 1996. Along with the Wilson brothers the film starred screen legend James Caan. *Bottle Rocket* was followed by 1999's *Rushmore*, a critical hit that won several Independent Spirit Awards, bringing Anderson and Wilson further notoriety, and a growing fan base.

"Anderson's films contain a great deal of sincerity and innocence, and in today's cynical world you just don't see much of that anymore," said senior fan John Lasinski.

Zwantastic

by Scott Schwartz
Entertainment Editor

If you're going to name your band Zwan, you better be able to back it up with some solid rock, and that is exactly what former Smashing Pumpkins front man Billy Corgan is doing. Corgan's new crew is made up of indie icon and former songwriter for Slint David Pajo, Chavez guitarist Matt Sweeney, and ex-Pumpkin drummer Jimmy Chamberlin.

After a decade of playing sold out arenas with the Smashing Pumpkins Billy Corgan is back playing small 300 erson clubs after only a year off. Comparisons to the umpkins are inevitable, but so far Corgan has done a good b of distinguishing Zwan from his formative work.

Zwan has played only six shows, four in California d two in the midwest. Tour date announcements have so preceeded the shows by mere weeks making tickets nearly possible to get.

HAMLET

a modern adaptation of a timeless classic

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Upcoming Concerts

Gravity Kills
The Pageant
December 18

The Urge
The Pageant
December 21, 22

Ja Rule
The Savvis Center
December 27

Dark Star Orchestra
The Pageant
December 29

Cowboy Mouth
The Pageant
December 30

A Pink Floyd Tribute: El monstero Y los masked avengers
The Pageant
January 5

Concerts are Subject to Change

Ex-Beatle Passes Away

By Laura Griffith
Features Editor

Fifty-eight-year-old ex-Beatle George Harrison died at 1:30 p.m on Thursday, November 29 after a long fight with cancer. He was staying with a friend in Los Angeles at the time.

In 1998, Harrison had to undergo surgery for his throat cancer. One year later, he survived an attack by an intruder who broke into his 120-room mansion and managed to stab him several times.

He left this world in peace, surrounded by family and friends saying, "Everything else can wait, but the search for God cannot wait, and love one another." He is survived by his wife Olivia, and his son Dhani, along with two other former Beatles, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

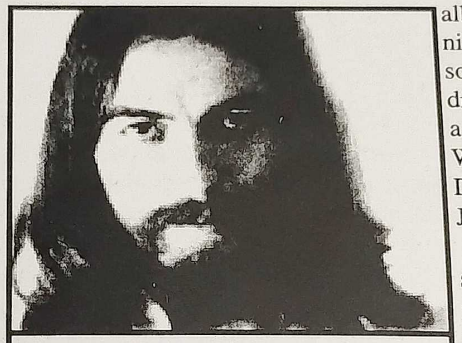


Photo courtesy of RollingStone.com

"He was a lovely guy and a brave man and had a wonderful sense of humor. He really is just my baby brother," said McCartney.

"George was a best friend of mine. I loved him very much and I will miss him greatly," said Starr.

Known as the quiet, shy, lead guitarist of the Beatles, Harrison's impact on the band was not so small and timid. It was Harrison who turned from his Catholic roots to embrace the idea of transcendental meditation. This era, when the band traveled to India to study meditation with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, is evident in some of their music. Harrison contributed such Beatle songs as "While My Guitar Gently Weeps," "Here Comes the Sun," and "Within You, Without You."

After the breakup of the Beatles in 1970, Harrison went on to release his first solo album, *All Things Must Pass,* which made it to number one on the charts and was the first of all the ex-Beatles solo albums to do so. In 1971, he organized two charity concerts at Madison Square Gardens for starving children in Bangladesh. He later joined a supergroup called the Traveling Wilburys, consisting of himself, Bob Dylan, Tom Petty, Roy Orbison and Jeff Lynne.

Harrison took a break from music following the murder of his former bandmate and friend, John Lennon. He founded a movie production studio called Handmade Films, which produced *Monty Python's Life of Brian* and the not-so-famous *Shanghai Surprise* (starring Madonna) among others.

He finally came back to music in 1987, when his last album *Cloud 9* came out. It included the hit entitled, "Got My Mind Set On You."

His ashes were spread over the Ganges River in India, where he will forever be a part of the land where he found his spirituality. This took place at exactly five o'clock p.m., on December 3 (St. Louis time).

Shallow Hal Looks Deeper

By Kari Oglesby
Backpage Editor

He may be shallow, but Hal's feelings run deep when he meets the perfect girl. A piece of deathbed-inspired fatherly advice skews eight-year-old Hal's thinking so that his life becomes a quest for the hottest girls possible. "Don't settle for average (insert offensive slang for female reproductive organ here)," his father tells him. So, Hal doesn't. Until he meets self-help guru Tony Robbins in an elevator and becomes hypnotized so that he sees inner beauty as outer beauty. Enter Gwenyth Paltrow's character, who everyone else sees as a "rhino," but who, to Hal, looks like regular old Paltrow. They have a funny and sweet courtship. But that can't last forever...or can it?

One interesting theme that could have been explored more thoroughly: If Hal sees his girlfriend as beautiful, is that necessarily any less real than what everyone else sees? Is living a fantasy wrong if it makes you happy? Is beauty really in the eye of the beholder? The conclusion seems to be a good one--someone you love will indeed be just beautiful enough for you, no matter what they look like to someone else, even if you can see their horns shining in the sunlight. The upsetting side: it took Hal's being tricked to realize that.

Overall, *Shallow Hal* is a funny film made all the funnier by Jack Black's natural comedic ability. The plot may be predictable, but it is not entirely so, and its satisfying if you can handle the premise. Fat jokes? Sure, but they come off not as demeaning so much as endearing. There are jokes for the shallow (jiggling flesh), but there are also jokes for the deep. You're not at risk of drowning, but you can take a nice swim through some heartfelt sentiment and some giggles.

Upcoming Movies

Ocean Eleven
George Clooney
December 7

Vanilla Sky
Tom Cruise
December 14

Not Another Teen Movie
Chyler Leigh
December 19

The Lord of the Rings
Elijah Wood
Ian McKellen
December 19

The Majestic
Jim Carrey
December 21

Video Releases

Two Can Play That Game
Vivica A. Fox
Morris Chestnut
Anthony Anderson
December 26

What's The Worst That Can Happen?
Martin Lawrence
John Leguizamo
January 1

American Pie 2
Jason Biggs & Chris Klein
January 15

Glitter
Mariah Carey
January 15

A Local Band Duk Butter

by Doug Beiser

Duk Butter is a local band from the Alton area. The band includes Chris Laird (Sleazy C) on guitar, Drew Mossman (Fatboy) on bass guitar, John Froneis (E-Boy) on drums , and Chris Childers on vocals. Some of their songs include, "Pants Are Gay", "Punks Have Feelings Too", and "Chris Spaulding I Hate You". When Chris Spaulding was asked what he thought about the song that was about him, he replied by saying, "It's tough."

Their first show was on November 10 at the Meridian Coffee House. They opened up for *Short Bus Confrontation* and *Behind the Stars.* In the words of the *Duk Butter* web site, "Our music was ok but we were bad!" This was true because of the distortion in the vocals and the rowdy drunk guy. In the middle of their set the drunken guy jumped on stage and started singing with the band. This made the vocals even worse. The drunken guy was finally kicked out, but not until after he helped ruin their set.

They are recording an album entitled *Straight Outta E-Boy's Garage* on December 8. After they are done recording they will sell their album for four or five dollars. If you want to know more about *Duk Butter* go to *http://listen.to/Dukbutter*. They have lyrics and a song you can download on the web site.

The Fellowship Of The Rings

by Stefanie Walker
Senior Editor

For almost fifty years and in forty different languages, *Lord of the Rings* has touched millions of people with its great magic and adventures. *Lord of the Rings,* written by J.R.R. Tolkien, released the first volume of this three-part epic *The Fellowship of The Rings* in 1954.

Its not surprising that the most popular book of the Twentieth Century is coming out on the big screen in a three part installment. Many fans will see their favorite book told in its entirety on the screen. The audience will be introduced to the characters of Middle-earth; its hobbits, dwarves, humans, elves, wizards and many more.

The director of this three part epic is Peter Jackson. Jackson's interpretation of *Lord of the Rings* is very visual and detailed. On the *Lord of the Rings* web site Jackson said "*The Lord of the Rings* remains one of the greatest books ever written. All I am offering is an interpretation, but hopefully one that will take the fantasy film to an entirely new level of adventitiousness and believability."

Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Rings comes out December 19 in theatres. To find out more visit *www. lordoftherings.net* to get more details on your favorite characters and to find out about the characteristics of wizards, elves, insight about the actors and behind the scenes news.

Billy Zane In Invincible

by Stefanie Walker
Senior Editor

Invincible is a television movie produced by Jet Li (Qian Yung International) and Mel Gibson (Icon Production). Its world premiere was on November 18 on *TBS Superstation.*

Invincible stars Billy Zane (*Titanic* and *The Phantom)* who's mission was to find the four people who are predestined to come together to stop Slate (David Field) and the Shadow Men before they get the tablet a page from the book of life.

Before he became the server of light, Zane's character Os was to kill the chosen ones and rule the earth with evil. Os kills one of the five, destroying the balance, and fights the White Warrior, a woman who shows him faith and love. His mission becomes finding the other four and teaching them how to use their powers together to fight the Shadow Men.

Each of the chosen ones have the powers of the Eastern philosophy's Four Elements. They are fire, water, wind, and metal. Each one in their own way were protectors before they went with Os: Keith Grady, an honest thief like Robin Hood, Michael Fu, a bodyguard, Ray Jackson, a hot headed soldier, and Serena Blue, an undercover cop.

The martial arts in *Invincible* was choreographed by Tony Siu-Tung Ching and his martial art team. Ching used wire work and had the actors practice their scenes until they looked believable. Ching combined visual effects with Hong Kong action, which makes *Invincible* a visual stimulating fantasy action television movie.

Invincible is a very good production by Jet Li and Mel Gibson. Its a good combination of Hollywood and Hong Kong cinema working together as equals. Eventually *Invincible* is said to become a regular series.

Do not take this seriously folks!!!

ALL TEACHERS SHOULD READ THIS!!!

by Nancy McDonald
Humor Editor

Christmas vacation is well on its way and I, for one, am excited. My perfect Christmas vacation is one where I relax and don't think. I think that thinking is so overrated. Anyway, this is not an impossible dream.

In fact, this dream almost became a reality last year. Yep, it was the day before the beginning of Christmas vacation. I was in my last hour class and there was only ten minutes left until the bell would ring. My teacher, who will remain anonymous seeing as I don't feel like getting sued anytime soon, was sitting in front of class listening to us talk about how we would be doing absolutely nothing over Christmas break. Then she stood up and said, "I was just listening to you guys and it seems like you're all going to be awfully bored these next few days. That's why I want every single one of you to write me a twenty-page paper about the color yellow. It will be worth one fourth of your grade and be prepared to hand it in right after the break."

Any happiness that had been in that room was immediately sucked out. Some people silently wept; others frantically made spitballs, hoping the bell wouldn't ring until they'd at least sent one into the teacher's hair. I sat and wondered : "How could one person be so cruel?" Then a spitball accidently hit me in the head and I blacked out.

The point is that one teacher was able to ruin thirty students' Christmas vacations. I realize that teachers have the power to do almost anything at all when it comes to torturing their students with long, drawn-out assignments, but come on! There needs to be limits to their power. I think, and this is my own opinion, that some teachers have this secret society. In this secret society, teachers earn points by seeing how many students they can make cry. Everyone in this secret society must earn at least ten points, or else they can't go on the big field trip to the zoo at the end of the year.

Only a few teachers are in the society. Some teachers let their students watch Christmas movies the day before Christmas break and hand out candy canes. These teachers are greatly appreciated and loved. SIDE NOTE TO THESE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND LOVED TEACHERS: As much as "certain people" like candy canes and are thankful for them, "certain people" would much rather have a batch of homemade Christmas cookies. YET ANOTHER SIDE NOTE: "Certain people" is just a fancy way of talking about me, just in case anyone (freshman) was confused.

Let's get back to those teachers in the secret society. I'm not normally a gambling gal, but I would bet that not many teachers read this newspaper; and judging by our most recent newspaper sales, not many students are reading the RedBird Word either (That's shocker!).

Anyway, if for some odd reason you are an intelligent student at Alton High and are reading this, grab the first teacher you come across and make him or her read starting with the next paragraph.

Hello, Mr. or Mrs. (Insert your name). My how I am flattered that you are reading my little humor story! Now if you could just put your handy-dandy red pen down for just a minute so I can have your full attention... there you go. That wasn't that hard now was it?

Okay, here's the deal. We both want enjoyable Christmas vacations, right? Well, the only way for anyone to fully enjoy it is by having no homework, no long assignments, and definitely no twenty-page paper about the color yellow. Understand? If you understand you can stop reading this and try reading some other quality articles in here (Whoa! That new Wes Anderson\Owen Wilson movie, *The Royal Tenembaums* opening December 14 , looks pretty interesting....).

If you don't understand, read this paragraph and maybe you will. Let's say you give your class the "twenty-page paper" assignment. I've talked to everyone in your class and they've all agreed that they will write a forty-page paper instead. If you don't read every single word of it, your entire class will sue you because you aren't doing your job right thus their education is being squandered.

It's completely your choice. Thank you for reading and God bless America.

TOP 5 BEST THINGS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

1. **Duh, no school**
2. **Awesome eggnog**
3. **Family get-togethers that end with "Go home, I never liked you anyway."**
4. **Getting presents from a fat make-believe man**
5. **Fire hazardous Christmas lights**

Catsup...dogs down! Har har har!!

Mr. Bigg and Lollipops

by Andrew Bott

Last week, while daydreaming in calculus class, the following question came into my head: why do students always have to sell so much junk for school? Already this year, I have been asked to sell candy, cheesecake, cookie dough and worthless Christmas goods. What do I have to show for it? A t-shirt with some flags on it, six pounds of gummy bears, and two bucks.

Outraged by this blatant violation of child labor laws, I overturned my desk, stormed out of the classroom, and fell straight down the stairs. I picked myself up, looked around to make sure no one saw, and marched directly to my music class where I last sold frozen sweets. I kicked down the door and demanded to know who was behind this heinous corporate scandal. My music teacher asked me what the heck I was talking about. So, somewhat less triumphantly, I asked her who owns the cheesecake factory. She told me who did, but for the sake of not infringing on any copyrights, we'll call the company 100-year Resources.

I was on the next flight to Columbus, Ohio - the home of the 100-year Resources headquarters. WARNING: My adventure from here on will be slightly more violent, as there will be a whole lot more doors getting kicked down. Upon my arrival at Columbus International, I kicked open the airplane door and hailed the first cab I saw. After kicking down the cab door, I strutted confidently to the front of the 100-year Resources stronghold. I kicked in the revolving door, but that didn't work too well. One can only imagine the bruises I had after that mistake. As I approached the elevator, a man who looked about 6' 7" and had a striking resemblance to Mr. T came out of nowhere and stepped in my way. He made it clear that I "wasn't on the list," whatever that meant, and he asked me to leave.

Equipped for such a situation, I pulled out a really big lollypop and gave it to him. He thanked me and moved aside. What an idiot! I laughed maniacally as I kicked down the elevator door.

From there, I went up to the top floor (that's always where the evil CEOs have their offices) and walked to the end of the hall to a large oak door with the words "Mr. Bigg - CEO" on it. I kicked it in, right on top of the shady chief officer. Now was my chance to stand up for students everywhere.

"Mr. Bigg" I began, "I have traveled a long way to meet you here today. I have to tell you that what you are doing is wrong. Asking students to sell goods for your company takes away from class time when we should be learning, and their leisure time when we should be having fun, as kids, not running around, worrying about cookie deadlines and such. So please, consider what you are doing to the youth of America. Thank you."

Mr. Bigg pushed the oak door off of himself and stood up. He reached into his pocket, pulled out a cherry lollypop, and handed it to me, telling me to leave before he called security. YUM!!! A cherry lollypop! Feeling successful, I headed back home.

So now, as I serve my referral for breaking the door to the music room, I eat my lollypop in self-satisfaction. Satisfaction that once again, I have helped my fellow man. You're welcome, fellow man.

Christmas Shopping Nightmares

by Andy Clark

Everyone knows that Christmas can be dangerous. I'm not talking about what the right present is to buy your dog, or you wondering what your girlfriend wants but she won't tell you what it is and you have to guess and 99 percent of the time you're wrong. I'm not even talking about those fanatics who camp outside K-Mart, or the scary old ladies in powered shopping carts running down little kids while cackling about coupons. No, I'm talking about the most dangerous thing of all, the products themselves.

Take for instance the "new" Tickle Me Elmo doll. Some poor fool at the toy factory thought he could re-live his glory days by reintroducing this sell-out toy from a few years ago with some "improvements." The ads say that on January twelfth the doll will do something "different." I envisioned it laughing harder or getting mad. Instead of its cheerful, "Hee hee, that tickles!" I saw it saying, "HA HA HA. Guess what? It's not funny anymore so cut it out or get beat down." Personally, I thought it would be hysterical if it didn't do anything new at all, then I'd feel sorry for all the poor saps who wasted their money on one. No, no I wouldn't.

What I really think will happen, though, is that they will all start chanting, "Worship Elmo," and then all the little kids would be subliminally programmed to make Elmo the next ruler of Earth. Of course, Elmo would only be a puppet politician (Duh) and would actually be controlled by Bill Gates who paid for the circuitry and who already owns 1/4 of the world anyway. By the way, did you see the new X-Box? Considering it was made by Bill Gates, I'm sure it comes with Microsoft Internet Explorer, crashes every 5 minutes, and comes with a popcorn maker.

Anyway, we would all have to pay homage to King Elmo and Prince Bill. Maybe being controlled by them wouldn't really be all that bad. I mean we could all use an upgrade form Windows 98 to Windows ME, and I'm sure our new leaders could provide. I'm actually looking forward to it because my computer sucks, and Prince Bill would make sure we all have a computer and are all under Microsoft control. It's not like the Apple Corporation is giving them much trouble. Poor Apple, they can only peddle their sad little computers to under-budget school systems. I feel sorry for them now. We need King Elmo and Prince Bill to save us. Long live King Elmo and Prince Bill!!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM SHIRTLESS, KNIFE WIELDING LEPRECHAUN, AND THE REST OF THE RBW STAFF!

Redbirds Wrestle In Successful Season

photo by Laura Hickerson

by Juan Black and Rickey Militello

The power, the feeling of control, the assurance that your physical strength, and condition can dominate, and prevail over others.. This is the feeling, after long and physically demanding practices, Alton Redbird wrestlers obtain.

"I feel really good after I've just pinned someone or won a match," said freshman and first year wrestler Tyler Jones. "I joined the wrestling team because it's a really physical sport. Every individual has a chance to show how strong they are."

The Redbirds have twelve returning letterman this year, senior Luke Warner, juniors Ben Laux, Nick Delaney, Chris Childers, Tyler Flanagan, Matt Sutphin, Joe Calmese, Mark Erwin, Robert Hunter, sophomores Mike Minton, and Fred Skleton. Coach Roberson hopes to take at least four of these wrestlers to state.

Mentally, physically, and competitively, the Redbirds have dominated the mats, at home and away. In a blowout victory against Springfield, IL. The Redbirds swept Springfield in a 42 to 30 point victory. In Collinsville, the Redbirds once again dominated and won the meet with a score of 40 to 29. "In both of the meets, some of us who are on JV, went up against third and fourth year varsity wrestlers. In all the match-ups the Alton wrestlers either won their match, or if they lost they did very well," said Jones.

" I think we will do good this year," stated senior Luke Warner. "We have a lot of talent has a team this year," Warner added. This year we will be strong on varsity, we have a lot of returning wrestlers who know what they are doing," said junior Ben Laux. "We will win big this year," said sophomore Mike Minton.

Torch Relay Under Way

by Carol Lyons
Sports Editor

Muhammad Ali was sent to kick off the Olympic torch relay of the Winter Games. A welcoming ceremony was held Tuesday December the 4th in the last city that held the last Winter Games. The torch is on its way to Salt Lake City, Utah where this years games will be held.

The torch will cover 46 states and 13,500 miles. Eleven thousand five hundred people will carry the torch through 80 American cities and cover 400 miles a day. The torch will arrive in Salt Lake City on February 8th for the opening ceremony. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Hawaii are the four states that will not be visited throughout the 46 state tour.

Many athletes will take part in the relay such as six-time medalist in speedskating Bonnie Blair. The focus of the relay somewhat shifted. Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, the Salt Lake City officials began to cultivate the Winter Games as an opportunity to demonstrate friendship among countries. There will also be heightened security for the events.

The torch was made by Sam Shelton, a professor of mechanical engineering at Georgia Tech. Shelton also designed the torch for the 1996 Olympics. The torch is made to handle weather ranging from minus 40 degrees to 80 degrees, including strong winds and rain.

Many people are looking forward to the games and hope everything runs smoothly. There is no doubt that the Winter Games of 2002 will be very different ,yet it leave a lasting impact on the United States.

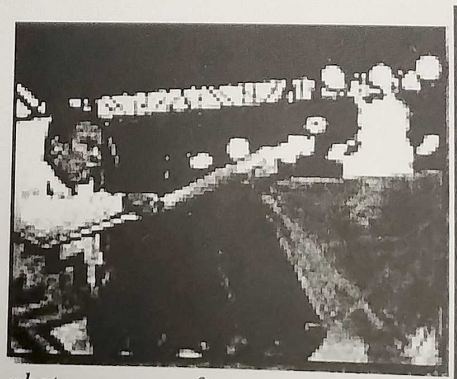


photo courtesy of www.geocities.com

National Honor Society vs Faculty

by Andrew Bott

"Nobody loses when it's for charity." There were the words of the National Honor Society "Brainballers" coach Nick Hausman after a tough 73 to 50 loss to the Alton High School faculty team, "The Crows".

The game was filled with suspense as the score remained close the entire game, until the fourth quarter. The Crows pulled away scoring 42 points in the second half, 30 of which were in the last eight minutes of the game.

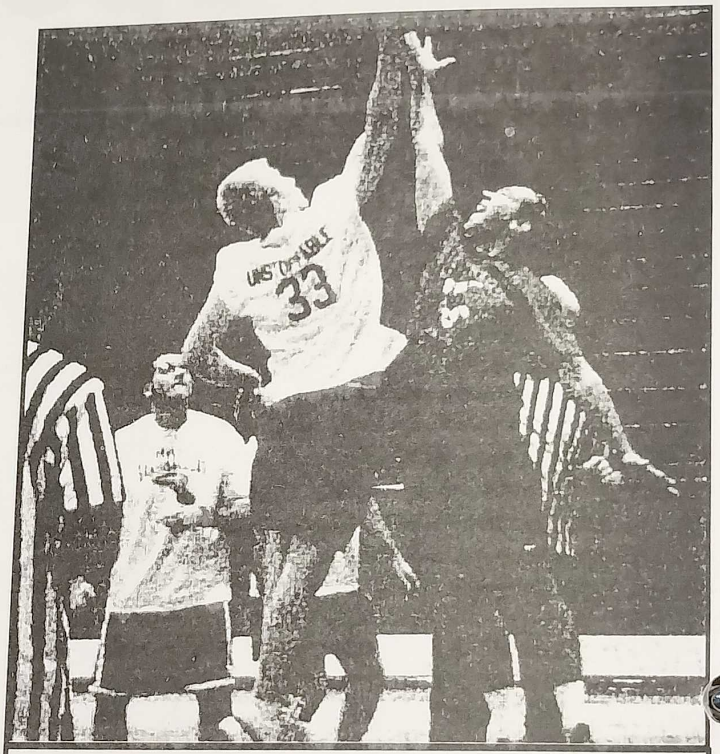
Scott Schwartz, leading scorer for the Brainballers stole the show accounting for half of the team's point. 21 of his 25 points were from the 3-point range.

"The team gave 100 percent and we had great coaching. My Performance was the greatest athletic achievement in AHS history," said a winded Schwartz in a postgame interview.

Other leading scorers for the Brainballers were Brett Hartig and Andrew Bott each with five points, and Chad Stutz with four.

Aside from the game play, highlights included the NHS cheerleaders and the quirky game announcers Ryan Chestnut and Ryan Boyer.

NHS raised well over $300 from the game. The proceeds will go towards adopting a family either through Salvation Army or Oasis.



Senior Chad Stutz outjumps science teacher Mr. Scott.

Student coach Nick Hausman congratulates the faculty coach.

There is No Fluff in Powderpuff

by Katie Scoggins
Senior Editor

The 2001 Powder Puff took place on November 17. This game, compared to previous Powder Puff games, was completely different, considering the game ended in the middle of the third period.

To many, this was an extremely big disappointment, especially to the Senior class. After many years of tradition, seniors winning their Powder Puff game, the seniors this year were not even allowed to finish their game let alone continue on the tradition.

The decision to end the game in the middle of the third period was made by the referee, Coach Brockhouse. He had told the girls before the game that he was not going to put up with any fighting or cursing. Well, to say the least, the girls did not listen. There was a couple of fights that broke out that Brockhouse let go and continued to warn the girls that the game would be called if the fighting continued.

After the fight in the third period, Brockhouse picked up the football and proceeded to walk up the stairs from the football field. The girls on both sides knew this was their own fault, yet were upset with the decision to call the game.

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Bob Marley

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SAY HELLO TO KARIO!

If you could have one thing for Christmas, what would it be?

Ashley Kemp (12)- a whole new wardrobe every season.
Ebony Johnson (9)- a Navigator.
Angela McCrady (12)- an Escalade.
Amy Stabell (11)- a lot of chocolate!
Emily Roberts (10)- a trip to New York City.
Heather Irion (12)- a Fresian horse, and a house.
Sam Bellamy (12)- a really big house all to myself.
Jesse Miller (9)- a wonderful vacation to the Bahamas.
Heather Jones (12)- a car, specifically a 2002 silver Shelby.
LaShonda McKnight (9)- I would be happy with $50 million.
Amy Lehman (12)- Tim McGraw. I love him! He's so hot! Ha ha!

WORD FIND!

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V	R	L	D	L	T	H	A	H	Y	Y	S	G	O	C	I	Q	X	L	C	A
D	S	F	B	M	G	E	K	O	O	E	I	E	E	Q	B	G	V	Y	P	J
R	U	D	O	L	P	H	A	J	V	E	Y	S	H	N	I	N	S	B	C	U
S	T	N	E	S	E	R	P	L	L	W	P	S	O	X	P	N	H	T	W	L
B	W	H	S	D	M	J	E	S	T	H	D	I	E	K	H	J	W	O	O	M

Christmas
Presents
Tree
Family
Santa
Money
Reindeer
Elves
Lights
Carolers
Stocking
Sleigh
Rudolph
Mrs Clause
Goose

HOROSCOPES

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)- Try to get to know the sexiest, most successful librarian at Alton Hayner Youth Library. He or she is looking for someone like you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec.21)- If you have red, curly hair, have a van with stickers on it, and live in Alton, you are the smartest and most cool person alive. Someone likes you!

Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19)- Take a jog, and start working out. You put on a little too many pounds over the Thanksgiving holiday. Work all those unwanted pounds off before Christmas!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb.18)- Have some Christmas cheer! When Santa Claus is looking at your Christmas wish list, he remembers the good deeds you do, not the bad ones.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)- You've been bad this season, so come up to room 401 for your holiday spanking.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)- Think you're going to get a fruitcake for Christmas? Well it takes one to know one!

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)- Don't stay up <u>too</u> late. You might catch daddy kissing Santa Claus!

Gemini (May 21-June 20)- Look out! Your evil twin is trying to take your significant other away!

Cancer (June 21-July22)- Call 462-8253 for a good time.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)- To all the Leos who saw the first Star Wars: You now have a good reason not to see the second one. It's bad!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)- Watch out for Oakbrook Production's new movie, *The Rambler.* It will change your perspective of the silver screen.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)-Make sure to wear your student ID because Mullet Man is coming for you!

MERRY CHRISTMAS